

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 172

February 2019

Regional Meetings

As you all probably know, Regional Meetings take place in May and June each year. That may seem a long way off but time moves swiftly so plans need to be confirmed sooner rather than later. We did not quite manage 100% attendance from the branches last year although it was close. It would be really good to reach 100% this year so please have a think about how we can achieve this.

There are five regional groups and the dates and venues are shown in the table below updated for this year with question marks where confirmation is still required. Please would all chairmen have a look at arrangements for this year and let me know whether or not these have been confirmed, are under negotiation, or if there are any problems that need to be addressed. If there are any issues with arrangements, there is still time to sort these out as long as we know far enough in advance.

An agenda for the meetings will be provided and now is the time to think about any issues that you may wish to raise for discussion – a perfect opportunity to meet with a representative from the Management Committee and to provide feedback in both directions about what is happening at branch level and centrally and what you might like to see in the future. It is all about the Society, the membership and how we all work together for the good of everyone. One subject that will be back on the agenda for this year, by request and as promised, is how the branches are doing – a chance to compare notes and share good practice.

Regional Meetings Expense Reimbursement

I have been advised that there were some issues about reimbursement last year so for full information on what the Society will contribute towards these meetings and how to claim please refer to the Treasurers Guidance Note No.4 on the Officers' section of the Society website. If you are still unsure about claiming, please ask now so that all claims can be dealt with promptly. Thank you.

Stationery – specifically Membership Packs and updated Leaflets

Further to the information in the last newsletter – the tri-fold leaflets are designed for standard leaflet racks such as those adjacent to where Society Nameplates are on display, or at other locations where our leaflets may be on display eg museums, other places with railway related collections etc.

There is also a new and updated version of the four page introductory leaflet that has not been available for some time. This is intended as an introduction for new members and for inclusion in the Membership Packs. Please remove the old tri-fold leaflets from the membership packs and include the new four page introductory leaflet instead.

Both leaflets have now been updated and old stocks should be recycled and new ones used instead.

Details on how to access new stocks are as advertised in the previous newsletter so please contact Bob Ballard using the usual contact details wrb.rcts@btinternet.com or 01908 562195. Delivery may take up to 2 weeks so if you need them sooner rather than later please do not leave your order until the last minute.

News from the Development Committee (DC)

VACANCIES

National Network Visits Co-ordinator

This is an advance notice of an advertisement that will be appearing shortly in the RO. The Society would like to increase the number of visits that are made to railway installations around the country and is therefore looking for a member who would be interested in helping to develop the visit programme working alongside the branch fixtures secretaries where appropriate. This is not intended to take over the sterling work done at branch level but to enhance the profile of the Society and perhaps open up opportunities that might not be otherwise available. It may also help those branches that are not in a position to arrange as many outside visits as they would like to - whatever the reason for this may be.

Exhibitions Officer

A new Society Exhibitions Officer is sought now that David Elsdon is stepping down after a number of years serving in the post. Thank you David.

Volunteer Required – for one day only!

A third person is sought to help man the RCTS stand at Crewe Open Day on 8 June 2019. Two volunteers have already been recruited but at least one more is required. This is a golden opportunity to promote the RCTS and, as a bonus, you get to attend the open day without having to pay to enter.

Please contact Paul Chancellor at dscchair@rcts.org.uk if you would like to know more about the above initiatives and opportunities and what may be involved.

***** STOP PRESS *****

A discount of 15% discount for RCTS members has been negotiated on all purchases with Book Law – with the exception of Society publications – another benefit of RCTS membership, with a more formal announcement being made in a forthcoming edition of the RO.

Please share this information with your branch members especially the information from the DC.

 RCTS	GREAT WESTERN	LONDON & SOUTH	NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES	MIDLAND & NORTH WESTERN	EMNESH
LOCATION	Royal Hotel, Bath?	Maybury Centre 27 Board School Road WOKING GU21 5HD?	Digswell Village Church Warren Way DIGSWELL AL6 0DH?	Waverley Hotel, Crewe?	Edmondson Room, NRM, York?
DATE	?	11th May (tbc)	?	?	?
TIME	?	11:00	?	?	?
MC ATTENDEE	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
CHAIRMAN	Brian Arman (secretary Paul Udey)	Richard Ashby (secretary Geoff May)	Robert Warburton (secretary David Elsdon)	John Cowlshaw (secretary ?)	Malcolm Hammond (secretary Rodney Allen)

Great Western: Bristol; Cheltenham; Thames Valley; South Wales; West of England

London & South: Chichester; Croydon & South London; Solent; South East; Surrey; Windsor & Maidenhead

Northern Home Counties: Cambridge; Hitchin; Ipswich; Milton Keynes; Northampton; Peterborough; South Essex; Watford

Midland & North Western: Furness, Lakes & Lune; Lancashire & North West; Merseyside, Chester & North Wales; West Midlands

EMNESH: East Midlands; Humberside; North East; Scottish; Sheffield; West Riding